Boston, Maſstts, Feb. 12. 1854,

Dear Mr. Webb;

Mail after mail, week after week, have gone by, and my purpose to write to you yet remains unfulfilled. Indeed my work has been behindhand, ever since the first of December, and I have not yet brought up the arrears. — Edmund Quincy's usual Report to the Annual Meeting of our State Society being omitted this year — on account of its transfer to the American A. S. Socy, to which Society it will be made next May — seemed to render it needful that some one else should prepare, for our State Annual Meeting, some kind of a Document to take its place. This I undertook, by request. — In addition to a brief Statement of what our Society had done, I ~~gave~~ prepared a List of the Victims & Sufferers from the Fugitive Slave Law, with comments, &c., which it is proposed, at a suitable time, to publish. This took me many days — it was more than double the work I anticipated, and I only brought the record down to the time of Dan. Webster's death, in Octo. 1852. I mean soon to complete it. — The Bazaar, & the Decade Meeting, both brought an addition of work to my usual allowance, so that I have had, much of the time, all I could do to keep up with the actual demands of the day. — I have told this long story, simply as an apology for my too long delay in writing, — for not even sending you a line by

Parker Pillsbury. — By the way, we were rejoiced last Monday to receive the first letter from Pillsbury, written partly at your house, and to find him so well on his way. He wrote in good spirits; ~~and~~, as you will see, it appears in last week's Liberator. I do not recollect that he mentioned his health. — I hope to be able by this Steamship to mail some copies (in pamphlet form) of the "Bazaar Gazette", and shall take an early opportunity to send you a small box, containing an additional supply, and a quantity too of the Pamphlet on our Decade Meeting at Philadelphia. We propose to send 300 copies, of this latter pamphlet to you, to be sent around, according to your judgment, to friends in Engd, Scotd, & Ireland. — When the February No. of the Advocate arrives, I hope to see the Resolutions there, which we adopted at that meeting, especially (if I remember rightly) the last one, — that which so well shows the precise doctrines wh. the Amn. A.S. Society has promulgated respecting the Sabbath, the Bible, &c. &c. &c. That Resn. is so succinct, so comprehensible, & so just a statement of the exact position of the Amn. A.S. Society on those subjects, that I hope it will be repeatedly published in the "Advocate;" and that it may find a prominent place in other A.S. journals. Mr. Chamerovzow, I doubt not, will gladly copy it, as being unanimously adopted by the Society, — and at an uncommonly large attendance of its members, all parts of the country being well-represented.

I am very sorry to hear that the "Watchman" has stopped. A sudden failure of Mr. Chesson's friendly and generous efforts for a practical union of A.S. workers! — I believe that all G. Thompson's friends here, without exception, wondered at his trying to effect a Union with the supporters of Hemming (an avowed agent of Lewis Tappan, or at least had been so), and at his pains to conciliate Jos. Sturge — a bitter, hard, & relentless enemy of the Amn A.S. Society, and of every man who, on English shores, has ~~defended~~ been identified with it — Mr. Chesson made a thorough & masterly exposure of Hemming — a poor tool he! What will C. do now? — supposing the rumour to be true that the A.S. Watchman has stopped. — If it hasn't, I wish to be a subscriber, & will thank you to make me so, for one year from its beginning. —— Do you know whether Geo. Thompson got the £1. stg. bill which I sent to him, through your hands? Mr. Webb wrote me that it had been forwarded (or would be) by safe hands. — He has never ~~[illegible]~~ acknowledged it, to my knowledge. A letter on purpose is not worth while, but he might put a line into a letter, when writing to Garrison or some other one here.

When you last wrote, you had not received the parcel of books, which I sent you ~~lang syne~~ last November; — and I believe you sent a message about them, thro' some other of your Amn. correspondents, since you wrote to me. — On the 16th Nov. last, I handed to Crosby & Nichols, Booksellers, a parcel for you, which they said would go in a few days, — but to London, to Chapman & Co.

They said Chapman w^d. send it to Ireland. I offered to pay the expense of it, but they preferred not to have it paid here. – The books were Giddings's Speeches (1 vol), Horac Mann's Speeches, &c. (1 vol), Weld's Slavery As it is (1 vol), and Solomon Northup, all of which you requested. I also adde without cost to you or me, a copy of the Abstract of the Sevent U. S. Census. – I hope you have received them long before this.

Feb. 13. We (i.e. the country) are now in the midst of another crisis – you know what a number of them we have passed through! – an agitation is springing up, which at present looks healthy & hopeful. ~~A villain, by the name of~~ Stephen A. Douglass, of Illinois, a Senator in Congress from that State, one of the numerous aspirants for the Presidency of this Republic (!), recently had the hardihood, hitherto unparalleled even in this slave-hunting & heaven-daring land, to propose, in his place in the Senate, a Bill for rendering void what is called the Missouri Compromise of 1820 (by which, in a deliberate compact entered into by all the States, North, South East, & West, it was agreed that slavery & involuntary servitu should be forever excluded from all Territory of the U. S. lying North of the line of 36° 30'); ~~and so of opening the vast~~ the effect of Douglass's Bill would be to op to Slavery the vast territory of Nebraska, occupying an extent of half a million of square miles, and universally considered until now as guaranteed to freedom ~~to the unrestricted [illegible]~~

This is a pitch of audacity that no statesman, North or South, has ever ventured upon before. This proposal for the yielding up by the North, of an arrangement which secured so large a Territory to 'Freedom,' ~~and to~~ is Senator Douglass's bid for the Presidential ~~Chair~~ Nomination in 1856. No one but an accomplishe villain would have ventured to father a scheme of such perfidy. Hundreds of thousands of square miles, now

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free & untainted, to be yielded up to all the woes & horrors of eternal Slavery, to gratify the ambition, for a short-lived honour, of one such wretch as Stephen A. Douglass! — It is because I am naturally hopeful, that I faintly hope for the defeat of this iniquitous scheme. But Douglass, like other selfish political schemers, is wary, and would hardly have ventured on so bold a move, ~~but~~ had he not carefully looked over the field, and counted his men. It is already a moral certainty, that three-fourths of the U. S. Senate will vote in favour of Douglass's Bill. There remains the chance that Douglass, & Pres. Peirce, with all the Government patronage to back them, cannot bribe or intimidate men enough in the H. of Representatives, to carry their point! A slender chance indeed, leaving scarcely room for hope! Oh, what a Nation is this; and to what wickedness & baseness has it not given itself up, in obedience to the demands of Slavery. — The Northern States are speaking out, quite manfully, against this nefarious measure. Many meetings have been, or are to be, held. Petitions & remonstrances are going in. — I believe the South will rue the day that sees the Missouri Compromise rescinded, in part by her votes. So bare-faced a fraud will never be forgotten or forgiven, by those who have any soul left — and, God be thanked, our people are not utterly soul-less yet.

Garrison has gone to New York, to give one of the course of Anti Slavery Lectures in the great Broadway Tabernacle. I am sorry to say he is but poorly, in health. – Wendell Phillips is lecturing a great deal, this ~~wee~~ winter, before Lyceums, & Literary Associations. – Joseph Barker is now giving, in Boston, his course of lectures on the Bible, & its tendency, when rec^d. as of divine authority. I have not greatly differed from what he has had to say of the Old Testament, when so rec^d; – but I was really amazed at the manner in which he spoke of the New Testament, which he regards not only as very imperfect, but as very immoral. Even ~~with~~ the maxims, or precepts, that we love our Neighbour as ourselves, & that we do to others as we would have them do to us, ~~have~~ are very narrow & one-sided, ~~and~~ have but little value in his eyes. I was exceedingly disappointed in that lecture, & my estimate of the man fell many degrees. I have not attended his last 2 lectures, partly from other engagements, partly from loss of interest. They have been very thinly attended, & attracted but little attention here. I am sorry for that – in the 1st place, because he has set forth a great deal of important truth, and has

P.S. I, for one, shall be glad to be saved, in future, any agency in, or responsibility for, the transmission of any parcels or boxes to F. Douglass. He behaves so meanly! I do not refuse to do it, if convenience of friends abroad requires it.

I think well of your sending a half yearly statement, or account, of receipts & expenditures.

attacked & sapped many of the refuges of lies, which Slavery, War, & a Vindictive Spirit find in the Old Testament; - and 2dly. Because the professed defenders of Christianity ought to have been present, to meet & answer so able, and generally-speaking (I cheerfully admit) so candid & so fair a man, as Joseph Barker.

I am quite impatient to know how you like our old veteran Pillsbury, and how he strikes others of our friends. He is certainly an original character - "brown, broad-shouldered Pillsbury", as James Russell Lowell called him in some lines. He is a faithful, upright soul - too straight-forward & outspoken for our crooked American church & religion, he scornfully cast them behind him some 15 years ago, & made or found a far better Church & religion for himself.

But I haven't said a word of the Bazaar - chiefly because Anne Weston has told the story so well; & because I have been mailing a considerable number of ~~the~~ her little pamphlet (in which form the Bazaar Report appears this year) to-day to friends in all parts of the U. Kingdom. ~~You~~ They will go forward with this letter. - A small country Fair has just been held at Fitchburg, realizing $210. to the cause. - The Liberty Bell was omitted this year. We were sorry to lose it, but the money can probably be better expended otherwise.

I think well of your sending a half-yearly statement, or account, of receipts & expenditure.

I shall send forward a box soon, (I fear no ship will go direct to Liverpool, till March 5 containing a supply of the Bazaar Report, also of the 2d Decade Meeting pamphlet - I want dreadfully to send a few copies of the latter by mail, for I want you & Mr. Estlin particularly to have it. But I have ascertained (as it weighs between 8 & 9 ounces) that I must prepay 30 cents on each copy (more than it is sold for), and then an equal sum will be levied in your country, making 60 cts = 30 pence = 2/6 each! It is truly shameful that we are so burdened with this postage tax. Why should rum, gin, tobacco, gunpowder be freighted across the ocean so much more cheaply than books, pamphlets, letters, & the means of knowledge? Easier asked than answered. If I send you the "Decade" Pamphlet (about which I am still hesitating), you must pay your 15d postage without wincing. —

I hoped to have written, by this Steamer, to Mr. ~~&~~ or Miss Estlin; but I cannot. - If you think it worth the while, you may let them read this, - as they are most welcome to do, if they will only find in it the sincere respect and affection I feel for them. I always hear from them with pleasure - and when I don't hear, I think of them much. —

I have poorly discharged the duty I owed you, that of a letter. But it must go, faut de mieux. - I haven't said a word of your account, of Dec. 16th. All right, I presume. It puzzles me some, not being an educated accountant, to know just where & how to debt & credit all the various payments, but I hope to get through without cheating anybody. - I want you to make up & send me the account, so far as the Bazaar is concerned as soon as you conveniently can; for I want to close that business, & have it off my mind. - I send you, on another paper, ~~on~~ a copy of my account with you, ~~not including any th~~ as it stood before I rec'd. your account of Dec. 16. 1853.

Do give my best respects to Mrs. Webb - and believe me, Dear Sir, Gratefully & Sincerely, Your friend
Saml. May Jr

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